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An Appendix to the preceding paper was also read, entitled, "Remarks on Mr. Snow Harris's Communication," by S. H. Christie, Esq. M.A. F.R.S.; in which the latter gentleman, although he admits that Mr. Harris's experiments may explain some of the phenomena observed by Mr. Christie, yet he does not consider them as conclusive against the existence of the magnetic influence of the solar rays, and points out several circumstances in support of that opinion.

February 28, 1833.

MARK ISAMBARD BRUNEL, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A paper was read, entitled, "A Relation of the case of Thomas Hardy Kirman, with remarks on Corpulence." By Thomas Joseph Pettigrew, Esq. F.R.S.

The subject of this communication, T. H. Kirman, was born at Barrow Mill, near Barton-upon-Humber, in Lincolnshire, on the 18th of April 1821. His father, who is a miller, is of middle stature, but inclined to corpulency; his mother tall and stout; and both perfectly healthy. Their son Thomas was not remarkable at the time of his birth for any peculiarity either in size or strength. He has enjoyed uniform health, excepting that when six years old he fractured his thigh, and was in consequence confined for five weeks to his bed; on rising from which, by an imprudent exertion, he injured his knee, and was obliged to lie upon a couch for five or six weeks longer. It was during this period of inactivity that he was first observed to increase much, both in bulk and height. This increase has since been progressive; and especially rapid during the last twelve months. At the present time, at which he is within two months of being twelve years old, he measures five feet one inch in height, and weighs one hundred and ninety-eight pounds. He measures round the chest $45\frac{1}{2}$ inches, round the abdomen 44 inches, round the pelvis $48\frac{1}{2}$ inches, round the thigh 27 inches, round the calf of the leg $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches, round the upper arm 13 inches, round the fore arm $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches, round the wrist 7 inches, and across the shoulders 19 inches.

The fat deposited is of firm consistence, and the muscular frame is strongly developed. His size occasions him at present but little inconvenience; his appetite and sleep are moderate; his habits and sports perfectly juvenile; and there is no appearance of puberty. He has a brother and two sisters, who are all of the ordinary height and size.

This account is followed by remarks on the subject of corpulency. The author observes, that this habit of body is most frequently met with in marshy districts, and has an apparent relation with the humidity of the climate. It is much more prevalent in England than in France or the South of Europe. It may often be traced to hereditary predisposition, and is promoted by tranquillity and cheerfulness of mind, and equability of temper, by full living, the use of fermented liquors, and of certain articles of diet containing much nutritious

matter, and also by inaction of body, whether the result of natural indolence, or, as was originally the case in the present instance, of necessary confinement.

Various other circumstances are enumerated by the author as favouring the accumulation of fat; and various expedients pointed out for obviating this morbid tendency, founded on the principles of diminishing the supply of nutriment, of increasing the tone of the system, and stimulating it to greater activity.

The reading of a paper, entitled, "Experimental Determination of the Laws of Magneto-electric Induction in different masses of the same Metal, and of its Intensity in different Metals," by Samuel Hunter Christie, Esq. M.A. F.R.S., was commenced.

March 7, 1833.

JOHN WILLIAM LUBBOCK, Esq. M.A., V.P. and Treasurer,
in the Chair.

The reading of Mr. Christie's paper was resumed and concluded.

Mr. Faraday, in his valuable papers entitled "Experimental Researches in Electricity," has advanced the proposition, that "when metals of different kinds are equally subject, in every circumstance, to magneto-electric induction, they exhibit exactly equal powers with respect to the currents which either are formed or tend to form in them;" and "that the same is probably the case in all other substances." The author not being satisfied with the conclusiveness of the experiments adduced in support of this proposition,—in order to determine its correctness, subjected different metals directly to the same degree of magneto-electric excitation, in such a manner, that the currents excited in them should be in opposite directions (as was the case in Mr. Faraday's experiment), and also that these opposing currents should have the same facility of transmission; so that the difference of their intensities, if any existed, might admit of measurement. He then minutely describes the apparatus he contrived with this view, and which consisted of helices of copper and of iron wire, covered with silk, each making sixty-five turns, but in opposite directions, and crossing each other alternately, and surrounding a cylinder of soft iron, which was rendered magnetic by the application of the large magnet belonging to the Royal Society, which the Council had placed at his disposal while engaged in these researches. The result of the experiment showed that the force of the currents from the copper helix considerably exceeded that from the iron helix, and appeared to be even more than double. By a modification of the apparatus, he found that the intensities of the currents in the two wires were very accurately proportional to their conducting powers; and hence the uniformity of the results obtained by Mr. Faraday is easily explicable.

The next object of Mr. Christie was to determine the order of the